

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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R 171640Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3195

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH "LICENSING" OF HORSEMEAT IMPORTS

1. EMBOFF WAS CALLED TO MINISTRY OF FINANCE TO BE INFORMED THAT GOF WILL ISSUE NOTICE TO IMPORTERS THAT HENCEFORTH IMPORTS OF HORSEMEAT WILL BE SUBJECT TO ISSUANCE OF A "TECHNICLA VISA" BY THE GOF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

2. DIRECTORATE OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS OFFICIAL (COLLIN) EXPLAINED THAT FINAL FOUR MONTHS OF CALENDAR YEAR IS SEASON FOR SALE OF HORSES BY FRENCH FARMERS. GOF DOES NOT WANT INCREASING VOLUME OF IMPORTS TO DEPRESS PRICES FOR WHAT IS ADMITTEDLY LIMITED BUT
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SEASONAL NATIONAL PRODUCTION.

3. LAST YEAR GOF REQUESTED US TO RESTRICT EXPORTS OF U.S. ORIGIN HORSEMEAT TO APPROXIMATELY 700 TONS PER MONTH DURING THE FINAL CALENDAR QUARTER. WE WERE UNABLE TO MAKE SUCH AN UNDERTAKING AND FRENCH IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. DURING SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1974 AVERAGED 1200 TONS PER MONTH.

4. FRENCH FIGURES SHOW IMPORTS FROM U.S. DURING FIRST SEVEN MONTHS HAVE AVERAGED 1500 TONS PER MONTH OR 50 PERCENT OF FRENCH TOTAL IMPORTS. CURRENT FRENCH OBJECTIVE IS TO REDUCE MONTHLY AVERAGE OF IMPORTS TO 2,500 TONS PER MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1975.

5. AGRICULTURE "TECHNICAL VISA" WILL BE AUTOMATIC, BUT THERE IS A CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT VISA ISSUANCE WILL SLOW DOWN UNLESS IMPORTS DROP BY ABOUT 15 PERCENT. IN CASE OF U.S. THIS WOULD MEAN MONTHLY AVERAGE BETWEEN 1200 AND 1250 TONS OR ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR FOR THIS PERIOD.

6. EMBOFF SAID WE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT BUT WOULD REPORT FRENCH CONCERNS. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOF WILL RESORT TO QUOTAS UNLESS THERE IS A VISIBLE SLOWDOWN IN IMPORTS. CLEARLY RECENT RAPID GROWTH OF IMPORTS HAS INDUCED GOF TO INTRODUCE "TECHNICAL VISA" PROCEDURE WHICH WAS AVOIDED LAST YEAR.
RUSH

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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